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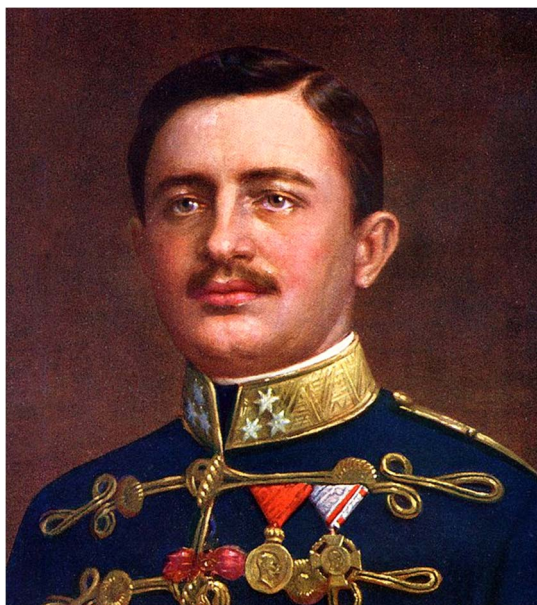
In this edition we bring you two well-illustrated historical articles. The first one is from Robert Ronus who continues to enlighten us on early modern European coins. His article is on Louis II of Hungary and some of his coins. The article features a *dickgulden* of the infant Louis that I remember seeing on the Sixbid website; a most interesting piece. The historical account is even more interesting as it tells of Muslim invasions into Europe and the disunited response of Christendom which is still relevant today.

The second article is completely different than the first. It is an account of foreign coppers used in the early decades of the United States. I found this interesting to read and it whetted my appetite to bring some old cents out of storage and take another look. My thanks to Dean Thomas for sending us this article.

Herman

NI

Picture Quiz



Lajos II, the Last King of Independent Hungary

Robert Ronus, NI #LM139

Matthias Corvinus is recognized as the greatest king of mediaeval Hungary. Under him Hungary reached its greatest territorial extent, extending in the west into present day southeastern Germany, in the south into Dalmatia, to the east into Bulgaria and in the north into Poland. Married to Beatrice, daughter of the King of Naples and fascinated by the achievements of the Italian Renaissance, he promoted the new ideas coming from Italy and patronized many Italian artists at his court. He founded a university at Bratislava and his library, the *Bibliotheca Corviniana*, was second only in size to the Vatican Library in all of Europe.

Unfortunately he died childless in 1490, except for one illegitimate son the Hungarian nobility would not accept as king. Instead they chose the weak King of Bohemia, Ladislaus II (Ulászló II in Hungarian, Wladislaw II in German, Wladislaus in Latin, Ladislaus or Vladislaus in English, and a variety of other variations in the other languages of his kingdom). Ladislaus' mother was the sister of an earlier King Ladislaus (1444-57) and granddaughter of Sigismund of Luxembourg, King of Hungary (1387-1437) and Holy Roman Emperor (1433-37). Ladislaus' father was King Casimir IV of Poland.

Ladislaus immediately moved to Hungary and lived there for the rest of his life. To win the support of the Hungarian magnates, he had promised to donate to them many of the royal estates and royalties to the nobility and he continued to do so to preserve his popularity. Of course, he soon began to experience severe financial difficulties. To make matters worse, the noble estate of the parliament succeeded in reducing the tax burden by 70-80 percent. As a result, Hungary's ability to defend itself was greatly weakened. The standing mercenary army, the Black Army of Matthias Corvinus, was dissolved by the aristocracy. Border guards and castle garrisons went unpaid and fortresses fell into disrepair.

Ladislaus' main objective was to have a son who would be accepted by the nobles as his successor and establish his line in Hungary. His first two wives, Barbara of Brandenburg and Matthias' widow, Beatrice of Naples, did not produce a son who survived past infancy. However, his third wife, Anne de Foix, gave birth to his only surviving legitimate children, Anne and Lajos (Ludwig in German, Ludovicus in Latin, usually Louis in English).

Lajos was born on July 1, 1506 when his father was 50. To ensure his succession Ladislaus had Lajos crowned King of Hungary on June 4, 1508 and King of Bohemia in Prague in 1509. He succeeded his father as King of Hungary and Bohemia on March 13, 1516 and was declared of age to rule on December 11, 1521, at the age of 15-1/2.

The Vienna numismatic dealer, H. D. Rauch, had a rare example of the amusing Dickgulden Ladislaus struck for his son's coronation as King of Hungary in their October 2014 auction (lot 1815). The coronation took place in the basilica at Székesfehérvár (more easily, Stuhlweissenburg in German), a city about 40 miles southwest of Budapest. The city was a royal residence and was one of the most important cities of Hungary. 37 kings and 39 queens consort were crowned in the basilica, 15 rulers have been buried there, the diets were held there and the crown

jewels were kept there. Lajos was, of course, only 2 years old. Here is a description of the coin:



Obverse: WLADISLAVS*D*G*R*VNGARIE*ET*BOHEMIE* with crowned bust of the King left in circle.

Reverse: sceptre LVDOVICVS*FILIVS (= son)*R*VNGA* form of & *BOHEMI* 1508. The infant Lajos crowned and seated half-left on cushion, below *CORONATVS (=crowned), in circle.

Mint: Kremnitz. 20.85 g. 30 mm. Huszár & von Procopius 4.

On January 13, 1522, a month after coming of age, Lajos II was married to Maria of Austria, granddaughter of Emperor Maximilian I, as stipulated by the First Congress of Vienna in 1515. His sister Anne was married to Archduke Ferdinand of Austria, later Emperor Ferdinand I. According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, Lajos and Mary “pursued a life of riotous pleasure”. There is a beautiful painting by Titian where he looks the epitome of a rich, handsome young Renaissance prince. However, the King’s finances were a shambles, with the nobility as unhelpful as ever. He had to borrow to meet his household expenses which, according to Wikipedia, totaled about one third of national income.



Lajos II by Titian

Meanwhile the 26-year old Suleiman I the Magnificent had ascended to the Ottoman throne in 1520. He saw Hungary as a screen between him and the lands of his great rival, Emperor Charles V. One of his first acts was to send Lajos an ambassador offering peace in return for tribute. The Hungarians considered the demand an insult and threw the envoy into prison. (One source says he was sent back with his nose and ears cut off and another that he was murdered.) The Hungarians believed they could rely on the Pope, Charles V and other Christian states for support. This proved a disastrous illusion.

The Ottoman Empire declared war on the Kingdom of Hungary and Suleiman left Constantinople on February 16, 1521. By the end of August he had captured Belgrade and many strategic castles in Serbia, leaving the route open to Buda and the Hungarian heartland. No Christian states came to Lajos' aid. However, Suleiman now turned his attention away from Hungary to attack the island of Rhodes, which he captured after a long siege in January 1523. It was only in 1526 that the Ottoman Emperor launched his second expedition to subdue all of Hungary.

Lajos was still only 20 years but had the responsibility of trying to put together a military campaign and leading his army in battle. This splendid 1525 1-1/4 Taler shows him riding in armor on a plumed and armored horse and displays his main titles and the arms of the many territories of his family.





Obverse: LVDOVICVS DEI GRACIA HUNGARIAE DALMACIA CROACIA
EC (= et cetera) REX. King on horse left, below.

*KREMNICZ*BERNHART*BECHEM*, all in circle.

Reverse: +MARCHIO MORAVIA DVX LVCENBVRGENSIS ET SLESIA M D
(=Grand Duke) XXV (date) Crown, 9 shields and LM monogram in a frame in
circle. The outer circle of 7 shields show the arms of (clockwise from crown) New
Hungary, Croatia, Silesia, Niederlausitz, Moravia, Rascia & Dalmatia; the larger
shield left of the crown shows the quartered arms of Old Hungary & Bohemia
with a Poland escutcheon; the larger shield on the right has 6 fields with the arms
of Castile, Leon, Aragon, Sicily, Austria, Old & New Burgundy and Flanders with
an escutcheon with Habsburg & Tyrol.

38.10 g. 53 mm. Mint: Kremnitz. Diecutter Bernhardt Bechem was Chief Master
of the Mints in Austria and Tyrol. Dav.-LS 557. Corp. Numm. Hung. 302
(pattern).

After the capture of Belgrade hostilities between the Ottomans and Hungary took the
form of border raids. In one such incident in 1524 Pál Tomori, the warlike archbishop
of Kalocsa, defeated a force of some 15,000 *akinji* (Turkish light cavalry) and sent
the head of the Turkish commander to the king in Buda. Finally, in April 1526
Suleiman himself set out from Constantinople at the head of an army of more than

100,000 men and 300 cannon. The Hungarians were even more divided than ever. They disliked Lajos and his court who were dominated by German-speakers. The magnates and bishops were also in conflict with the minor nobility or squires, who were seeking more power in the Diet. None of them trusted the peasants whose revolt in 1514 had been suppressed with great cruelty and vindictiveness, after which they were all condemned to eternal servitude with no recourse to the courts. When Lajos called on his nobles to encamp with their forces on July 2 to meet the Turkish danger no one reported on that day—not even the King.

Meanwhile there was little sign of help from abroad. The Imperial Diets had been preoccupied over the previous few years with Luther and the rise of Protestantism, as well as the Peasants' Wars. The Emperor was also fighting a war with the French for the control of northern Italy. His brother, Archduke Ferdinand of Austria, Lajos' brother-in-law, was more aware of the danger and anxious to help. He asked to garrison the Hungarian province of Croatia with his own troops but the Hungarian Diet refused to listen to the request. He then negotiated directly with the Croatian nobles and in February 1526 the Estates of Croatia formally put themselves under his protection. But no significant Austrian troops appeared.

When Lajos himself furnished an example with his appearance in the camp, things start to move. As the troops assembled, it was decided to advance to the plain of Mohács, on the west side of the Danube, about 30 miles north of the Drave River which would have been a much better line to defend. Suleiman was pleasantly surprised to find the Drave undefended. On August 15 he gave orders to throw a bridge of boats across the river and within a couple of weeks the Ottoman army had crossed over.

The Hungarian war council, having finally chosen a commander, the warlike Archbishop Tomori, learned that Suleiman had crossed the Drave and debated the strategy they should now adopt. The more cautious advocated a retreat towards Buda. This would allow the main army, led by Lajos himself, to receive reinforcements which were on their way: the Transylvanian army under János Zápolya, which had been charged with guarding the passes in the Transylvanian Alps, with between 8,000 and 13,000 men, and another smaller force, commanded by the Croatian count Christoph Frankopan, numbering around 5,000 men. There was also a Bohemian contingent of about 16,000 further away, on the western frontier. But unfortunately the bulk of the Hungarians, including Tomori himself, filled with an insane overconfidence, clamored for an immediate fight. Many of them were hostile to Zápolya and unwilling to have him share in the glory of the victory they considered certain. They elected to hold their position at Mohács, an open but uneven plain with some swampy marshes which they thought would give them full play for their cavalry.

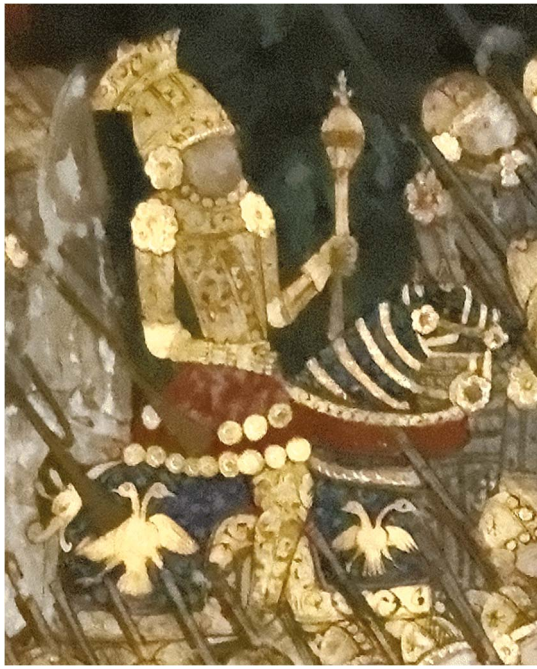
The Hungarian army (including Croatian and Polish contingents and even about 800-1,000 soldiers of the Papal States, as well as Spanish, German, Czech and Serbian mercenaries) amounted to 25-30 thousand. The army mostly relied on old fashioned heavily armored knights on armored horses. The Ottoman army was about 50,000 plus many lightly armed irregular troops. It was a more modern force built around the elite Janissaries corps, primarily equipped with muskets, and its artillery. The rest of the army consisted of *timari* cavalry (a feudal system of military support) and conscripted levies from Rumelia and the Balkans. The only advantage the Magyars

had was that their troops were well-rested, while the Turks had just completed a strenuous march in scorching summer heat. But rather than attacking their fatigued enemy then, the Hungarians just watched as they struggled through the marshy terrain. For Hungarian aristocrats, it was “unchivalrous” to attack the enemy when they were not yet ready for battle.

The battle of Mohács began on August 29, 1526. As the first of Suleiman’s troops, the Rumelian army, advanced onto the battlefield, they were attacked and routed by Hungarian troops led by Pál Tomori. This attack by the Hungarian right was successful in causing considerable chaos among the irregular Ottoman troops, but even as the Hungarian attack pressed forward, the Ottomans rallied with the arrival of Ottoman regulars deployed from the reserves. While the Hungarian right advanced far enough at one time to place Suleiman in danger from Hungarian arrows that struck his cuirass, the superiority of the Ottoman regulars and the timely charge of the Janissaries, the elite troops of the Ottomans, probably overwhelmed the attackers, particularly on the Hungarian left. The Hungarians took serious casualties from the skillfully handled Turkish artillery and musket volleys. The Hungarians could not hold their positions, and those who did not flee were surrounded and killed or captured. The result was a disaster, with the Hungarians advancing into withering fire and flank attacks. The king left the battlefield sometime around twilight but was thrown from his horse in a river at Csele and died, weighed down by his heavy armor. Some 1,000 other Hungarian nobles and leaders were also killed. It is generally accepted that more than 14,000 Hungarian soldiers were killed in the initial battle.

Suleiman could not believe that this small, “suicidal” army was all that once powerful country could muster against him, so he waited at Mohács for a few days before moving cautiously against Buda. They ransacked Buda. However, the Ottoman army was not prepared for the winter that was approaching and a large garrison would be needed to hold on to Hungary. János Zápolya’s army was still at large. The Sultan’s presence was urgently demanded in Constantinople and there were rumblings of rebellion in Asia Minor. In September Suleiman decided to withdraw and his army started the long march home.

Mohács was nevertheless the end of the independent kingdom of Hungary. As Lajos had no legitimate children, János Zápolya of Transylvania, supported by a majority of Hungarian nobles, especially the lesser nobility or squires, was elected king on November 10, 1526. However, Ferdinand of Austria, Lajos’ brother-in-law, also claimed the throne and was elected king by his supporters a year later. In a chaotic period both men were crowned King of Hungary at Székesfehérvár in successive years. Zápolya became increasingly the Sultan’s satellite in his struggle with the Habsburgs.



The battle of Mohács in 1526. Hungarian National Museum, Budapest
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Bataille_de_Moh%C3%A1cs_1526.jpg

Mohács also marked the end of an independent Hungarian coinage until a much diminished Hungary emerged from the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1918. Here is a humble denar of Lajos struck in 1526, the year he died:



Obv.: LVDOVICVS*R*VNGAR*1526 * Quartered arms of old and new Hungary (7 horizontal bars and double cross), Dalmatia (2 lion's heads) and Bohemia (lion rampant) with escutcheon with Polish eagle, in circle.
 Rev.: PATRONA*_VNGARIE Seated Madonna holding child Jesus dividing KB (= Körmöcbánya or (in German) Kremnitz, the mint), breaking out of circle.
 Hus. 841. CNH.306A. 15mm. 0.49g.

Actually, 1526 was not quite the end. The Kremnitz (Körmöcbánya) mint struck a gold gulden (Hus. 827) and a Dickdenar (a piefort, 7.98 g, Hus.842) in Lajos' name in 1527 with the mintmark LK (Ludovicus Kremnitz).

If anyone fancies a small memento of the last king of independent Hungary, Lajos' denars are common with a variety of mintmarks and cheap.

János Zápolya quickly moved to strike similar denars in his name at several mints in 1527. Here is one:



Obv.: IOHANNES*R*VNGARI*1527 * Quartered arms of old and new Hungary (7 horizontal bars and double cross) and Dalmatia (2 lion's heads) and escutcheon with Zápolya family arms, a wolf, in circle.
 Rev.: PATRONA*_VNGARIE Seated Madonna holding child Jesus dividing KT (= Kremnitz - Thursó) breaking out of circle.
 Hus.881. CNH. 331A. 15 mm. 0.62 g.

Various members of the Thursó family managed the Kremnitz (Körmöcbánya) mint under concessions from the King in the first part of the 16th century.

Zápolya had no claim to Bohemia nor any connection to the Polish royal family so the Bohemian arms were replaced by repeating the arms of old Hungary in the fourth quarter and the Polish eagle in the escutcheon with his family arms.

Ferdinand also started striking a variety of coins as king of Hungary in 1527. I do not have a picture of his 1527 denar but here is an almost identical one of 1535:



Obv.: FERDINAND.D.G.R.VNG.1535. Quartered arms of old and new Hungary (7 horizontal bars and double cross), Dalmatia (2 lion' heads) and Bohemia (lion rampant) with escutcheon with Austrian arms (horizontal bar), in circle.
 Rev.: PATRONA._*_VNGARIE Seated Madonna holding child Jesus dividing KB, breaking out of circle.

Hus.935. 15 mm. 0.55 g.

Ferdinand was fully recognized as the King of Bohemia so the Bohemian lion comes back while the Zápolya arms on the escutcheon are replaced by Austria.
 The reverses with the Madonna remain basically unchanged throughout.

Eventually, in 1538 Ferdinand and János Zápolya reached an agreement under which the former would inherit all of the rights to the throne of the latter, a childless older man, on his death. He died in 1540 but in the meantime he unexpectedly married and had a son, János Zsigmond. Suleiman launched another campaign into Hungary on the pretext of protecting the infant Zápolya's rights to the throne. Eventually Hungary was divided into three. The Turks incorporated the Hungarian heartland including Buda into the Ottoman Empire and would retain this territory until 1686. The eastern part of the country was set up as the independent principality of Transylvania and was given to János Zsigmond Zápolya. His successors as princes of Transylvania would include the title "lord of part of the Kingdom of Hungary" on their coins. Ferdinand took over what was left of the kingdom of Hungary.



The map displays the position of the Kingdom of Hungary before 1526, and the 3 parts into which it was divided after the Battle of Mohács: Royal Hungary, Transylvania, and the part that was annexed by the Ottoman Empire.

On the abdication of his brother Charles V, Ferdinand was elected Emperor in 1556 and Hungary remained part of the Habsburg Empire until its collapse in 1918. All its coinage—leaving aside a couple of revolts—was struck in the name of a Habsburg, even if some distinctive types of minor coins with the Madonna persisted.

There is a little postscript to this story. Karl IV was the last Habsburg and held the titles of Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary in what was known as the Dual Monarchy. On November 11, 1918, the day of the armistice marking the defeat of

Germany and Austria in the First World War, Karl renounced taking any part in the affairs of government and a Republic was declared. In a period of chaos this morphed into a Hungarian Socialist Republic under a Communist called Béla Kun. After 133 days this collapsed. A newly-organized army led by Vice-Admiral Miklós Horthy marched into Budapest on November 16, 1919 and restored the kingdom. Horthy took the title of Regent. However, when King Karl returned from his exile in Switzerland in March 1921 to reclaim his throne, Horthy sent him back to Switzerland. For the next 23 years Horthy ruled Hungary as Regent. Hungarian coins bore the legend Magyar Királyság, Kingdom of Hungary. However, no king's name ever appeared and indeed Horthy's bust rarely appeared either. Thus it is correct to say the coins of Lajos II were the last coins of an independent king of Hungary.

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NI

Quiz

Bob Fritsch, NI #LM134

Here we go with countries T through Z. Match the Coinage themes with the country. All items were taken from the First Edition 21st Century SCWC and the 34th edition of the 20th Century SCWC.

1. Oil Derricks, Brass Jug, International Trade Center
2. African Dhow, J.K. Nyerere, Giraffe
3. Alexander I, Battle of Neretva River, Birth of Karajich
4. Cahit Arf, Hasam-Ali Yucel, Kemal Ataturk
5. Cocoanut Crab, Frigate Bird, Fin Whale
6. Artigas, Puma, Leandro Gomez
7. Phra Maha Bhumifhol Adulyadej, 80th Birthday of Princess
8. East African Crowned Crane, Ankole Cow, Henry M. Stanley
9. Morning Glory, K.D. Kuanda, Calendar
10. Salote III, Taufa'ahau IV, Whale

It All Makes Cents

Dean Thomas, NI #27672

In late November 1856, the U.S. Mint began a distribution of 1856-dated, pattern Flying Eagle cents “to newspaper editors, congressman, and others of influence” (Richard Snow, *A Guide Book of Flying Eagle and Indian Head Cents*, p. 15). This “advertising campaign” was a success and led to the passage of the Coinage Act of February 21, 1857. The new law, among its several provisions, established values for the pieces of Spanish (Mexican) dollars as follows: fourth of a dollar (2 reales)—twenty cents; eighth of a dollar (1 real)—ten cents; and sixteenth of a dollar (1/2 real)—five cents. Furthermore, these coins could be redeemed at the Mint, but they would be re-coined (melted) and never again be paid out or put in circulation. In addition, all former acts authorizing foreign gold or silver coins as legal tender in payment of debts, were repealed.



BROTHER JONATHAN'S NEW BABY.



THE SPANISH-AMERICAN DIFFICULTY.

The other major enactment of the 2-21-57 law provided for the coinage of new cents with a standard weight of “seventy-two grains, or three twentieths of one ounce troy, with no greater deviation than four grains in each piece; and said cent shall be composed of eighty-eight per centum of copper and twelve per centum of nickel, of such shape and device as may be fixed by the Director of the Mint, with the approbation of the Secretary of the Treasury; and the coinage of the half cent shall cease.”

Section 6 further enacted that the new cents could be paid out at the Mint in exchange for United States gold and silver coins and/or the old copper coins.

“And it shall also be lawful for the space of two years from the passage of this act and no longer, to pay out at the Mint the cents aforesaid for the fractional parts of the [Spanish/Mexican] dollar hereinbefore named, at their nominal value of twenty-five, twelve-and-a-half, and six-and-a-quarter cents, respectively.”

Director of the Mint, James Ross Snowden, made plans to produce the new cent on the day before the Act was signed into law when he wrote to Secretary of the Treasury, James Guthrie:

The obverse is a Flying eagle with the legend ‘United States of America’ and the date of the piece. The reverse is simply a wreath compiled of the principal staple production of our country, enclosing the denomination...The weight of the piece is 72 grains or 3 pennyweights, equal to three twentieths of an ounce troy. The diameter is fifteen twentieths or 3/4 of an inch, and the thickness of the planchet is sixty-five thousandths of an inch.... (Snow, p. 18).

Within two months, notices began appearing in the nation’s newspapers, announcing the much anticipated release of the Flying Eagle cents. *The Daily National Intelligencer* from Washington, DC reported on May 4, 1857:

THE NEW CENT. – The Mint will begin on the 25th of May to pay out cents of the new issue in exchange for Spanish and Mexican fractions of a dollar, and at the nominal rates, or in exchange for the copper cent now in circulation. The silver or copper coins must be presented in even sums of \$5 and not exceeding \$50.

The appointed day of issue of the new cent finally arrived and according to the *Philadelphia Bulletin*, “The Mint [was] Overrun by Applicants,” and proceeded to describe the scene:

To day was the period fixed when the new cents should make their appearance

in public, full fledged and ready to take the place of the old clumsy coin which has so long lumbered in the pocket of citizens, and gladdened the hearts of candy loving youngsters. Rumor said that Uncle Sam had in his marble palace up Chestnut street near Broad, untold treasures in the new coin, and, what was still better, he was willing to exchange the new pieces, cent per cent, for the old and discredited coppers which have so long done good service for the community. And what was better than all, Uncle Sam had announced through his accredited agents, his willingness, on this 25th day of May, 1857, to give out the new bright coin in exchange for Spanish tips, levies and quarters, at their nominal value.

Nine o'clock this morning was the hour fixed for—as Mr. Tittlebat Titmouse elegantly phrased it—“scattering the shiners”—but when the morning sun first reached the caps of the marble columns of the Mint, long before nine o'clock, he cast his benignant rays upon a numerous crew of persons who were gathered under the portico waiting for the doors to open, that they might get their small silver and their large copper exchanged for the bright little strangers who were so anxiously looked for. Every man and boy in the crowd had his package of coin with him. Some had their rouleaux of Spanish coin done up in bits of newspaper or wrapped in handkerchiefs, while others had carpet bags, baskets, and other carrying contrivances, filled with coppers—“very cheap and filling,” like boardinghouse fare.

The officiating priest in the temple of mammon had anticipated this grand rush and crush, and every possible anticipation of it. Conspicuous among these arrangements was the erection of a neat wooden building in the yard [interior courtyard] of the Mint, a special accommodation of the great crowd of money-changers. This temporary structure was furnished with two open windows which faced the south. Over one of these windows were inscribed the words CENTS FOR CENTS, and over the other CENTS FOR SILVER. Inside the little office were scales and other apparatus for weighing and testing coin, a goodly pile of bags containing the newly-struck compound of nickel and copper, and a detachment of weighers, clerks, etc.

The bags containing the “nicks” were neat little canvas arrangements, each of which held 500 of the diminutive little strangers, and each of which bore upon the outside the pleasant inscription “\$5.” Just as the State House bell had finished striking 9 o'clock the doors of the Mint were thrown open, and in rushed the eager crowd—paper parcels, well-filled handkerchiefs, carpet bags, baskets and all. But those who thought there was to be a grand scramble, and that the boldest pusher would be first served, reckoned without their host. The invading throng was arranged into lines which lead to the respective windows; those who bore silver had the post of honor assigned them and went to the right, while those who bore nothing but vulgar copper [old half cents and large cents] were constrained to take the left.

These lines soon grew to be of unconscionable length, and to economize space they were wound around and around like the convulsions of a snake of a whimsical turn of mind. The clerks and the weighers exerted themselves to the utmost to meet the demands of all comers, and to deal out the little canvas bags to all who were entitled to receive them; the crowd grew apace, and we

estimated that at one time there could not have been less than 1,000 persons in the zigzag lines, weighed down with small change, and waiting patiently for their turn.

Those who were served rushed into the street with their moneybags, and many of them were immediately surrounded by an outside crowd, who were willing to buy out in small lots and in advance on first cost. We saw quite a number of persons on the steps of the Mint dealing out the new favorites in advance of from 30% to 100%, and some of the outside purchasers even huckstered out the coin again in smaller lots at a still heavier advance. The great majority of those who came out "made tracks" with their bags of money, and not an omnibus went eastward past the Mint for several hours that did not, like the California steamers, carry "specie" in the hands of the passengers.

Those who made their way homeward a-foot attracted the attention of passersby by their display of specie bags, and we doubt much whether, in the history of the Mint, there was ever so great a rush inside the building, or so animated a scene outside of it. It was, in effect, at once a funeral of the old coppers and of the ancient Spanish coins, and the giving of a practical working existence to the new cents.

In a few weeks the coin will be plentiful enough at par, the Spanish coins will go out at the hands of the brokers just as they already have disappeared from ordinary circulation, and as regard for the old cents there will be "nary red" to be seen, except such as will be found in the cabinets of coin collectors.

Later in the day, Snowden elatedly wrote to Guthrie (Snow, p. 20):

The demand for them is enormous...We had on hand this morning \$30,000 worth, that is 3,000,000 pieces. Nearly all of this amount will be paid out today. The coinage will go forward, however, at the rate of 100,000 or more pieces per day and the demand will be met as well as we can.

By early August 1857, the United States Mint at Philadelphia had produced 8,600,000 of the new cents, however, a rumor was afloat in the New York newspapers that some of the coins were light weight. In the August 11 issue of the *Philadelphia Public Ledger*, mint director Snowden refuted the charges:

...Under the most rigid cases, variations in the weight of individual coins from the exact standard must necessarily take place, and such variations are provided for in the laws regulating the standard...for the new cent coin, four grains variation are allowed by law in the single piece. The necessity of such allowances arises from the inherent imperfection of all machinery and mechanical operations, so that it is impracticable that the discs of metal shall be prepared for an exact and uniform weight...It is undoubtedly the duty of the Mint to issue the coins with as little variations from the standard as practicable...Within the last three months, the mint has issued about forty-three tons of cents, manufactured from an alloy never before used in coinage; and in this large amount a variation from the exact standard of less than one-sixth of the allowance fixed by law has been found. Further experience will cause even this small variation to disappear.

On the following day, August 12, 1857, the *New York Herald* published an expose on foreign copper coins circulating in the city, stating that:

The amount of foreign copper coins circulating in this city must be very large; and one great argument in favor of the new cent—which appears to stand in need of argument in its favor—is that it would drive these bogus pennies out of circulation. The copper is the poor man’s coin, by which, no doubt he is cheated, but by virtue of which he is able to purchase even at the expense of being cheated. There is an inevitable swindle in buying by the cent’s worth, to which, perhaps, the seller is compelled, and to which the buyer is obliged to submit. But neither party should be obliged to submit to swindles, which, small as they may seem, have a relative magnitude compared even with greater transactions. A poor woman, buying her family food for the next day, may feel the deficit of a spurious coin passed upon her more keenly than a Wall street broker, sometimes losing a thousand a day, would be able to comprehend. Now, let us see what sort of copper coin is in circulation in New York. The following is a list of the foreign copper coins taken by a person in this city in two weeks, and in the course of his regular trading with shopmen:

- 1. Bank Token (Half-penny) of the Bank of Montreal, in the province of Canada. This is a very fresh and handsome coin, and is worth about a third less than the United States copper cent.*
- 2. Bank Token (Un Sou) of Lower Canada—a handsome coin worth about a third less than our copper cent.*
- 3. Bank Token (Un Sou, or half-penny) of Lower Canada, of the coinage of 1837—a little more worn than the preceding, and worth about a third less than our copper cent.*
- 4. English Halfpenny, of the coinage of George III, with the figure of Britannia upon one side and the effigy of his Majesty upon the other. This coin bears date 1805, and is worth about one half less than an unworn United States copper cent.*
- 5. Irish Halfpenny, of the coinage of George III, with the monarch upon one side and the harp upon the other. The date of this coin cannot be distinguished, but it is hardly worth more than one half of our copper cent.*
- 6. Large penny, either Irish or English, but worn smooth. It is probably worth, as metal, a little more than our copper cent.*
- 7. The well-known coin, “Ein Kreuzer,” worth a little less than half our own copper cent. These are of various descriptions. German swindlers are in the habit of importing them in large quantities, and of paying them out at the value of one United States cent. They are small, and the copper does not appear to be of very good quality.*
- 8. The Danish “Skilling.” This is not very common. It is generally very much worn, and is worth less by a half than our copper cent.*

There may be other foreign copper coins in circulation. These we have now before us. They are either brought here by emigrants, or are imported for the express purpose of circulating them at a profit. We have reason to believe that a large business is done in the latter sort of enterprise. It is a remarkable fact that though one often receives these coins over a counter, there is always a great and decided difficulty in paying them back again. The coins before us were all taken in respectable shops, and have all been refused in the same sites of traffic. Why not take from the emigrant all the copper coins in his possession, paying him their full metallic value? Why not prosecute, with the utmost vigor

of the law, those who make a business of importing this spurious currency?

Examples of the “Spurious Currency”

1. KM# Tn18 Weight: 9.11 g.
Diameter: 28 mm. Obv.:
PROVINCE OF CANADA –
BANK OF MONTREAL, front
view of bank building with
trees to either side. Rev.:
BANK TOKEN – 1844 –
HALF PENNY, “CONCORDIA
SALUS” on belt and “BANK OF
MONTREAL” on ribbon. Struck by
Boulton and Watt in England with a mintage of 1,440,000. Edge: Plain.



2. KM# Tn3 Weight: 7.76 g.
Diameter: 27 mm. Obv.: (Star)
AGRICULTURE &
COMMERCE (Star) PAS-
CANADA surround a bouquet of
native flora, grains, and one
maple leaf. Rev.: (Star) BANQUE
DU PEUPLE (Liberty cap)
MONTREAL, five maple leaves
with stems surround UN SOU, no date (ND, circa 1837). Edge: Plain.



Although it had earlier uses, in 1834, Jacques Viger, the first mayor of Montreal described the maple as “the king of our forest....the symbol of the Canadian people.” Two years later in 1836, the Lower Canada newspaper *Le Canadien* suggested that the maple was the suitable emblem for Canada.

3. KM# Tn9 Weight: 9.01 g.
Diameter: 28 mm. Obv.:
PROVINCE DU BAS
CANADA. UN SOU
surrounding a male standing
figure. Rev.: same as Tn18
except date 1837. Mintage:
480,000. Companion pieces of
240,000 each have “CITY
BANK”, “QUEBEC BANK”,
or “BANK DU PEUPLE” on the ribbons. Edges: Plain.



Interestingly, nearly a year later, the *Rochester Democrat* (New York) reported the “Canada Coppers” would not go away:

The meanest and most hated of copper coins—the Canadian sous and bank tokens—begin to appear, and are gradually working into circulation. Once open the gates to this currency, and barrels of these coppers will be brought across the lake to be put into circulation, as they used to be imported a few years since. If small coin is needed for change, American cents are abundant, and there is no call for Canada trash.

4. KM# 662 (English half-penny) Weight: 9.16 g. Diameter: 29 mm. Obv.: Bust of King George III facing right, surrounded by GEORGIUS III. D. G. REX. 1807. Rev.: Seated Britannia facing left with sailing ships in distance, BRITANNIA above. Edge: Center Slanted Reeding Left.



5. KM# 147.1 (Irish half-penny) Weight: 7.64 g. Diameter: 27.6 mm. Obv.: Bust of King George III facing right (slightly different portrait than above) partially surrounded by GEORGIUS III. D. G. REX. Rev.: Crowned harp with HIBERNIA above and 1805 below. Edge: Herring Bone.



6. KM# 148.1 (Irish penny) Weight: 16.66 g. Diameter: 34 mm. Obv.: Large portrait bust of King George III facing right, with GEORGIUS III. D. G. REX. partially surrounding. Rev.: Crowned harp with HIBERNIA in an arc above, and 1805 below. Edge: Center Slanted Reeding Left.



- 7a. Baden KM# 189 Weight: 4.10 g. Diameter: 21 mm. Obv.: Bust of Ludwig I facing right, with LUDWIG GROSHERZOG VON BADEN around. Rev.: Denomination "EIN KREUZER" and Date "1830" within wreath. Edge: Herring Bone. Similar coins were produced from 1831 to 1856 under the rules of Leopold I and Friedrich I, however, "EIN" was replaced by the Arabic numeral "1".



- 7b. Furstenberg KM# 35 Weight: 6.36 g. Diameter: 24 mm. Obv. Crowned arms of the Principality, C. I. D. G. PRINC. IN FURSTENBERG surrounding.

Rev.: Split wreath of two different forms of vegetation with EIN KREUZER 1804 W. in center.

Edge: Crude, but essentially Plain. Mintage: 40,000.



- 7c. Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen KM# 21 Weight: 3.63 g. Diameter: 16 mm. Obv.: Crowned arms of Carl with FURST. HOHENZ. SIGM. around. Rev.: EIN KREUZER 1842 within wreath. Edge: Plain. Mintage: 179,520.



- 7d. Hohenzollern, under Prussia KM# 1. Weight: 3.74 g. Diameter: 16 mm. Obv.: Crowned imperial eagle of Prussia with HOHENZOLLERN above. Rev.: Oak leaf wreath with EIN KREUZER 1852 A in center. Edge: Plain. Mintage: 30,000.



- 7e. United Nassau KM# 67 Weight: 3.72 g. Diameter: 16 mm. Obv. Crowned shield with crowned rampant lion on field of billets, HERZOGTHUM NASSAU around. Rev.: EIN KREUZER 1842 within wreath. Edge: Plain. Mintage: 479,800.



8. Denmark KM# 616.1

Weight: this specimen 11.78 g, but varies from 8.83 to 14.1 grams.

Diameter: this specimen 30 mm, but varies from 27 to 31.45 mm. Obv.: Crowned double "C7" monogram of Christian VII. Rev.: 1 SKILLING DANSKE K •

M • 1771 • in five lines. Edge: Plain. This coin was struck during the period 1771-1785 with a frozen date—estimated mintage of 54,757,000 coins.



Examples of the “U.S. Currency”

- 9a. Braided Hair Cent KM# 67.
1840 mintage: 2,462,700
Weight: 10.35 g. Diameter:
28 mm.



- 9b. as 9a. 1856 mintage:
2,690,463 Weight: 10.95 g.
Diameter: 28 mm.



As a matter of interest, the *Philadelphia Public Ledger* newspaper ran an “obituary” for the copper cent on February 9, 1847:

COPPER COINS.—As the copper coins are about to give place to new small cents made of nickel and copper, an obituary of the “red cent” will not be uninteresting. It was first issued as a United States coin in 1792. It then bore the head of Washington on one side, and thirteen links on the other. The French Revolution soon after created a rage for French ideas in America, which put on the cent, instead of the head of Washington, the head of the Goddess of Liberty—a French Liberty, with neck thrust forward and flowing locks. The chain on the reverse was replaced by the olive wreath of peace. But the French Liberty was short lived, and so was her portrait on our cent. The present staid, classic dame, with a fillet around her hair, came into fashion about thirty or forty years ago.

10. Braided Hair Half Cent KM# 70.
1851 mintage: 147,672. Weight:
5.18 g. Diameter: 23 mm.



11. Flying Eagle Cent KM# 85. 1857
mintage: 17,450,000. Weight: 4.66 g.
88% copper and 12% nickel.
Diameter: 19 mm (3/4”).



The “Hawaiian Cent”

12. KM# 1 Weight: 9.20 g.

Diameter: 27.5 mm. Obv.:

Forward facing bust of
uniformed ruler Kamehameha

III with the legend

KAMEHAMEHA III. KA.

MOI. in an arc and the date

1847 below. Rev.: The legend

AUPUNI HAWAII in a semi-
circular arc above a “berried”

wreath enclosing HAPA HANERI. In 1860, James Ross Snowden described the coin in his book *Ancient and Modern Coins, in the Cabinet Collection at the Mint of the United States*:



[From] the Sandwich Islands, we have but little to show, our “collection” of Hawaiian coins amounting only to duplicates of one piece, the cent, or “one-hundredth.” This, be it known, however, is the only coinage of that region. They have the American system of moneys, and use United States coins, with the exception of this piece, which is coined there. [See ANS Magazine 2014, Volume 13, Issue 4, page 29 - recent study indicates that the 100,000 ordered were struck by H.M. & E.I. Richards in Attleboro, MA] The legends and inscription are in the language of the country. On the obverse is a full-face bust of the king, attired in uniform, with the legend “KAMEHAMEHA III KO MOI” and the date. On the reverse is the inscription “HAPA HANERI” (one-hundredth), inclosed in a wreath of laurel, and the legend “AUPUNI HAWAII.”

Interestingly, U.S. Consul Ansen G. Chandler somewhat contradicted Snowden when he had written to him on June 14, 1859:

“The copper coin provided for has never been issued by this government.” (National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC, Record Group, 217, Entry 85, #106.) By 1862, however, there were 88,000 unissued cents in the Hawaiian treasury (ANS 13-4, page 31).

We have to wonder why the “Press” created a problem with the use of non-American cents? In reviewing the suspect list of coins provided by the *New York Herald*, only the “Ein Kreuzer” of Baden, Hohenzollern, and Nassau weighed less than the new Flying Eagle cent. Perhaps the new cent was perceived as having a premium because of its nickel content? At any rate, on August 17 the *Herald* kept up its pressure:

WHAT HAS BECOME OF THE NEW CENTS—The new cents that were issued from the Mint with such a flourish of trumpets, a few months since, have almost entirely disappeared from circulation. Occasionally one is met with, but its original brightness is all gone, and it has that dingy shame-faced appearance peculiar to alloys. Since the advent of the new cent the old penny nuisance has become worse than ever. In addition to the old American cent, German, French, English and all manner of small coin have been put in circulation in retail trade, and are readily accepted by dealers. This should be checked immediately. The same public opinion that was brought to bear to drive the old

Spanish currency out of existence should again be brought into play with regard to these spurious coins. Let there be a general demand for the new cents, and our citizens should discountenance the foreign coins in retail business transactions.

Further outcry came from the Philadelphia Public Ledger on the next day, but at least they offered a solution—the U.S. Government Mint would save the day!

SMALL DEALINGS IN TRADE—The New York Herald says there is a large business done in that city in the importation of foreign copper coins, worth less than a cent, but generally passed for that sum, with this difference—that they come from behind the counter, and are not permitted to go back. The new cent, from the U S Mint, will soon be circulated in such quantities as to exclude all other coins of the same denomination.

Whatever the reason for the anteforeignism, the United States was bound and determined to rely on its own coinage, even though U.S. citizens found the “Flying Eagle” problematic:

The Detroit Advertiser has discovered a new sense in which the new cents are a nuisance—the bird looks like a carrier pigeon on various new cents, bearing news hence; but then as he is one sent, it is a proper device for one cent (Harper’s Weekly, Vol. I - No. 39, September 26, 1857, page 622).

(Cartoons) Harper’s Weekly Vol. I - No. 8, February 21, 1857, page 128



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Quiz Answers (from p. 57)

1.) United Arab Emirates 2.) Tanzania 3.) Yugoslavia (or does this belong under “J”?) 4.) Turkey 5.) Tokelau 6.) Uruguay 7.) Thailand 8.) Uganda 9.) Zambia 10.) Tonga

Picture Quiz Answer (from p. 47)

Charles I of Austria and Charles IV of Hungary was the last ruler of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. He reigned from 1916 until 1918, when he "renounced participation" in state affairs, but did not abdicate. Those Hungarian coins dated 1916-1918 may be classified under Charles IV of Hungary. As explained in the Ronus article he was not king of an independent Hungary.